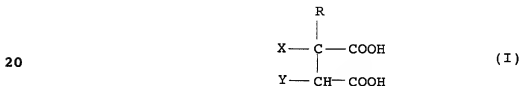


We claim

1. A method for producing moldings from finely divided materials
5 and for sheetlike structures of fiber materials, wherein the finely divided material is mixed or impregnated with a heat-curable composition and the resultant mixture is shaped at temperatures above 120°C or an unconsolidated sheetlike structure of fiber materials is first treated with a
10 heat-curable composition and then heated at temperatures above 120°C, wherein the heat-curable composition comprises:

- at least one reaction product of

- 15 i. at least one polycarboxylic acid of the formula I:



in which

- 25 R is hydrogen or a CH₂COOH group,
X is OH or NH₂ if Y is hydrogen,
Y is OH or NH₂ if X is hydrogen, or
X and Y together are a π bond,

and/or an anhydride of the polycarboxylic acid I

- 30 ii. with ammonia and, if desired

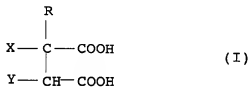
iii. with primary amines and/or compounds containing at least two hydroxyl groups; and/or

- 35 - a mixture of at least one polycarboxylic acid of the formula I and/or its anhydride and at least one substance which releases ammonia on heating and, if desired, primary amines and/or compounds containing at least two
40 hydroxyl groups.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction product of the components i and ii is selected from the monoamides and diamides, the monoammonium and diammonium
45 salts, and the monoamide ammonium salts of maleic acid and of fumaric acid.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction product is a water-soluble oligomer obtained by heating a monoamide or diamide, a monoammonium or diammonium salt or a monoamide ammonium salt of a polycarboxylic acid of the formula I.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-curable composition further comprises a finely divided polymer of ethylenically unsaturated monomers.
5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-curable composition further comprises at least one compound containing at least two hydroxyl groups.
6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the binder is used in an amount of from 2% by weight to 100% by weight, based on 100% by weight of finely divided material.
7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-curable composition is used as a powder.
8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the finely divided material is used in the form of fibers, chips, slivers or particulate materials.
9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is used in the form of an aqueous solution or dispersion.
10. A molding obtainable by a process as claimed in claim 1.
11. A sheetlike structure obtainable by a method as claimed in claim 1.
12. A heat-curable composition comprising
- at least one reaction product of
 - i. at least one polycarboxylic acid of the formula I:



in which

R is hydrogen or a CH_2COOH group,

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- X is OH or NH₂ if Y is hydrogen,
- Y is OH or NH₂ if X is hydrogen, or
- X and Y together are a π bond,

5 and/or an anhydride of the polycarboxylic acid I with

ii. ammonia and, if desired

10 iii. primary amines and/or compounds containing at least
two hydroxyl groups; and/or

- a mixture of at least one polycarboxylic acid of the
formula I and/or its anhydride and at least one substance
which releases ammonia on heating and, if desired,

15 primary amines and/or compounds containing at least two
hydroxyl groups

- at least one further constituent selected from finely
divided polymers of ethylenically unsaturated monomers,
compounds containing at least two hydroxyl groups, and
polymeric polycarboxylic acids.

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